

## Message Text

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65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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USIA-06 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00 MCT-01 SY-05 IO-13 /103 W

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R 301336Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6522

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C/AMEMBASSY LONDON 2645

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINS EG LY

SUBJ: CAIRO PRESS ON LIBYA: HIJACKING, LIBYAN MENACE AT FOREFRONT

SUMMARY. LIBYAN COVERAGE AUGUST 28-30 VARIED MARKEDLY  
IN QUANTITY. DETAILS ON HIJACKING AS CONFESSED BY CULPRITS  
ACCOUNTED FOR BULK OF INK, WHILE QADHAFI "LUNACY" AND THREAT  
ITS PRESENTS TO ARABS WAS PRINCIPLE ANGLE. PROMISES OF REVENGE  
CONSPICUOUSLY MISSING. END SUMMARY

1. HIJACKING. HIJACKING REPORTS AND COMMENTARY ACCOUNTED  
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FOR MOST OF INK SPILLED ON LIBYA IN PAST THREE DAYS. MILITARY

PROSECUTOR GENERAL MG MAKHLUF HELD TV PRESS CONFERENCE NIGHT OF AUGUST 28 TO PROVIDE DETAILS REVEALED BY "CONFESSIONS" OF HIJACKERS. ACCORDING TO PROSECUTOR, INTERROGATION ESTABLISHED THAT "ABDUL NASSER ORGANIZATION FOR COMBATTING REACTION" (ANOCR), RECENTLY IDENTIFIED AS HIJACKERS' PARENT OUTFIT, HAS HEADQUARTERS IN AMMAN AND IS FINANCED BY QADHAFI. ANOCR DESIGNED TO CARRY OUT SABOTAGE AND TERRORISM IN "REACTIONARY ARAB COUNTRIES". IT LED BY PALESTINIAN NAMED MUHAMMAD HUSAYN ARRASHK, CAR DEALER WHO LIVES IN AMMAN. OUTFIT HAS BEEN RECRUITING PALESTINIANS NOT CONNECTED TO PLO AND "UNEDUCATED ARAB YOUTH" TEMPTED BY QADHAFI OFFERS OF HUGE SUMS. PROSECUTOR SAYS EGYPTIANS REQUESTING ARRASHK EXTRADITION FROM JORDAN AS WELL AS THAT OF MOHAMMED TIRKAWI (PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS FUGITIVE MEMBER OF GANG) FROM KUWAIT.

2. PROSECUTOR ALSO SAID EGYPTIANS ARRESTED ANOTHER PALESTINIAN IN CONNECTION WITH HIJACKING. EID-AL-ZOR (OR ZAWAWI), WHO OPERATES GROCERY NEAR CAIRO SHERATON, ACCUSED OF RECRUITING AGENT FOR LIBYANS. HE ADMITTED BEING BAGMAN FOR OPERATION GIVING HEAD HIJACKER ALI OSMAN 300 EGYPTIAN POUNDS TO TRAVEL TO SANA (ADEN CLEARLY INTENDED ) TO MEET WITH LIBYAN CHARGE. HE ALSO ARRANGED OSMAN TRIP TO TRIPOLI FOR MEETING WITH LIBYAN OFFICIALS.

3. OSMAN REPORTEDLY ADMITTED HE MET IN AMMAN WITH ARRESKH, WHO CONVINCED HIM TO JOIN ANOCR FOR ACTIVITIES AGAINST EGYPT, SUDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA. ACCORDING TO PROSECUTOR, CONFESSIONS HAVE DEMONSTRATED EXISTENCE OF COORDINATION BETWEEN LIBYA AND PLO IN HIJACKING. OSMAN SAYS HE WAS TOLD IN TRIPOLI BY MININTERIOR OFFICIAL SAID TANA BIR TO TAKE HIJACKED PLANE EITHER TO LIBYAN OR ADEN. HE ALSO INSTRUCTED TO DEMAND RELEASE OF PRISONERS CONNECTED WITH MUHAYSHI AND HAYTHAM ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS. PAYMENT OF 100,000 DINARS WAS TO BE MADE THROUGH ARRASHK.

4. PROSECUTION RELEASED MOHAMMED MAHDI ABDULLA, ARRESTED AUGUST 24, HAVING ESTABLISHED HIS INNOCENCE IN HIJACKING.

5. AKHBAR CHAIRMAN MUSTAFA AMIN EDITORIALIZED THAT QADHAFI HIJACKING PLOT ONLY BOOMERANGED ON HIM. AUGUST 30 APERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORTED PRESIDENT FORD MESSAGE TO SADAT " LAUDING EGYPTIAN CLEVERNESS" IN DEALING WITH HIJACKING.

6. AKHBAR AUGUST 28 BANNERED THAT QADHAFI "AND HIS FOREIGN EXPERTS ON TERRORISM" HAVE FORMULATED PLANS FOR ASSASSINATION OF EGYPTIAN PUBLIC FIGURES AND ARE PREPARING TO ATTEMPT TO STIR UP STUDENTS.

7. AUGUST 30 AKHBAR REPORTED ARREST OF TWO MEN RESPONSIBLE FOR RECENT ALEXANDRIA TRAIN BOMBING, WHICH TOOK LIVES OF EIGHT. ARRESTEES, NOT IDENTIFIED, REMANDED TO MILITARY TRIAL BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE. VITROLIC AHRAH EDITORIAL LEANED HEAVILY ON QADHAFI'S LUNACY FOR INSPIRATION. QADHAGI FRUSTRATION OVER HIS FAILURE TO BECOME ARAB LEADER LEADS HIM TO SUBSTITUTE HIS VOICE WITH BOOM OF SHELLS AND BOMBS. TERRORISM LOOKED UPON BY CIVILIZED WORLD AS SYMBOL OF BACKWARDNESS AND MENTAL ILLNESS. QADHAFI BOUND TO FAIL FOR MASSES WILL NEVER ACCEPT IMPOTENCY OF HIS LEADERSHIP. IN ARTICLE ON KUWAITI SITUATION, AKHBAR EDITOR SABRI NOTED LIBYAN MADMAN' HAND IN SUBVERSION OF KUWAITI PRESS, "OBVIOUS GAME" WHICH HE HAD BEGUN IN LEBANON AND CONTRIBUTED TO DESTRUCTION OF THAT COUNTRY. KUWAIT LEADERSHIP FORCED TO STEP IN TO SAVE PERCARIOUS SITUATION.

8. COMMENT: WHILE COVERAGE OF QADHAFI MISDEEDS IS AMPLE, ASSURANCES OF RETRIBUTION AGAIN CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT. PRESS TREATMENT AND PUBLIC POSITION OF GOE, FROM SADAT DOWN, MARKEDLY DIFFERENT FROM POST-CAIRO BOMBING PERIOD. VIEWED AGAINST DETERMINATION TO STRESS QADHAFI DANGER TO EGYPT AND ITS FRIENDS, IT SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT GOE EITHER UNDECIDED ON WHAT TO DO OR THAT IT HAS INDEED DECIDED BUT WISHES TO CREATE APPEARANCE OF AT LEAST SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN ITSELF AND WHATEVER HAPPENS.  
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